

Application No. 10/810,190
Amendment dated April 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 with the following amended paragraph:

—Second segment 104 preferably includes a tab 136 extending from medial portion 142. Tab 136 is configured to cooperatively engage a tab receiving recess 134 in the lower surface 120 of first segment 102. Tab 136 acts as a spring to maintain first and second segments 102, 104 aligned along the longitudinal axis of plate 100. Tab 136 also functions to limit movement of first segment 102 in a direction transverse to longitudinal axis of plate 100 to prevent end 124 from dropping down beyond a desired position. This limited movement of first segment 100 prevents medial portion 122 of first segment 102 from lifting away from medial portion 142 beyond a desired position, so that ratchetings 152~~ratchetings 150~~ are not overly separated and rendered less effective as described in more detail below. It is appreciated that other configurations of segments 102, 104 are possible to hold apart segments 102, 104 and to limit movement of the segments in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the plate. For example, the longitudinal curvatures of first and second segments 102, 104 can be slightly different to spring apart segments 102, 104. For example, the radius of curvature of the lower surface of segment 102 may be different that the radius of curvature of the upper surface of segment 104.—